

Message Text

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FOL RPT KUALA LUMPUR 3256 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
CANBERRA JAKARTA MANILA OTTAWA SEOUL TAIPEI TOKYO HONG KONG
GENEVA R 200836Z APR 78 QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3256

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJ: VISIT OF WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR, HENRY A.

REF: SINGAPORE 1736

1. DIRECTOR BARBER OF WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL MET WITH
DCM APRIL 18 TO REVIEW REFUGEE MATTERS IN MALAYSIA AND TO
DISCUSS FURTHER HIS ORGANIZATION'S PROPOSAL TO OPERATE A
VESSEL TO DEAL WITH REFUGEES ON THE HIGH SEAS. BARBER
DESCRIBED THE PROJECT IN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME TERMS AS
CONTAINED IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL, I.E., THAT THE SHIP WOULD NOT
HAVE THE MISSION OF PICKING UP REFUGEES AT SEA BUT INSTEAD
WOULD ASSIST REFUGEES AT SEA TO PERMIT THEM TO CONTINUE
THEIR JOURNEY. HE SAID THAT IN FACT THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE
INITIALLY WOULD BE TO DETERMINE WHAT THE ACTUAL SITUATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 136971

IS REGARDING SUCH BOATS, I.E., WHAT THEIR PROBLEMS WERE, TO
WHAT EXTENT THEY WERE OR THEY WERE NOT ASSISTED BY MERCHANT
VESSELS, ETC. HE ADMITTED THERE MIGHT BE CASES WHEN THEIR
VESSEL WOULD HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO TAKE ON REFUGEES,
BUT THIS WAS NOT THE MAIN INTENTION.
2. BARBER SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH
THE WCRP PROJECT HAD ENCOUNTERED LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, HE

CLAIMED THAT HIS PROJECT WOULD AVOID THESE THROUGH BETTER MANAGEMENT AND THE MORE LIMITED OBJECTIVE DESCRIBED ABOVE.

3. BARBER INDICATED THAT WORLD VISION ALSO INTENDS TO MOUNT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IN THE U.S. TO HELP DRUM UP SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, ALONG THE LINES OF THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE EFFORT. HE SAID WORLD VISION INTENDS TO PUT TOGETHER A ONE-HOUR TV SPECIAL FOR U.S. NETWORKS AND CLAIMED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS ARE ALREADY WELL UNDERWAY.

4. DCM TOOK THE OCCASION TO DESCRIBE THE HELPFUL AND HUMANITARIAN ATTITUDE MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS HAVE SHOWN IN PRACTICE TOWARD REFUGEES BY ACCEPTING THEM FOR FIRST ASYLUM. DCM SAID THAT CONTINUED ASSISTANCE OF U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RESETTLE THE REFUGEES WOULD HELP ASSURE THAT SUCH AN ATTITUDE CONTINUES.

5. BARBER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR HIM TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE COMPANY OF OUR REFUGEE OFFICERS AND INS OFFICIALS APRIL 17. HE INTENDED TO CALL ON UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPATKUMAR AND MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY PERSONNEL HERE IN KUALA LUMPUR. HE HAD NO PLANS TO CALL ON MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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